

**SPECIAL LICENSES FIVE YEAR EDUCATOR LICENSE - CHILD DEVELOPMENT (PreK – K) (153)**

<b>License</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Validity</b>	<b>Renewal#</b>
Class A	<p>1. Bachelor’s degree or higher with child development emphasis from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning</p> <p>2. Official verification of program accreditation by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences or National Association for Education of Young Children (Form #OEL 02-04 E)</p> <p>3. Praxis I (Pre-Professional Skills Test-PPST)</p> <p>4. Praxis II (Specialty Area Test)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>1. Hold a valid five-year license in Elementary Ed. K-3, K-4 or K-6.</p> <p>2. Complete an approved supplemental endorsement program in PreK-K</p>	5 years	<p>Ten (10) continuing education units (CEUs) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area and</p> <p>Five (5) continuing education units (CEUs) in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Six (6) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p>
Class AA	<p>1. Meet the requirements for a Five Year Class A License in Child</p>	5 years	<p>Three (3) semester hours in content or job/skill related area</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Five (5) continuing</p>

	Development		education units
	2. Master's degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested		(CEUs) in content or job/skill related area
	OR		
	Master of Education Degree		
Class AAA		5 years	Same as for AA
	1. Meet the requirements for a Five Year Class A License in Child Development		
	2. Specialist degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested		
	OR		
	Specialist of Education Degree		
Class AAAA		5 years	Same as for AA
	1. Meet the requirements for a Five Year Class A License in Child Development		
	2. Doctoral degree in the endorsement area in which license is requested		
	OR		
	Doctor of Education Degree		

### **MDE Recommendation for Coursework of an Approved Program for a Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Supplemental Endorsement**

An internal meeting was held at MDE on April 5, 2011, to review the recommendations from the Pre-K-K committee that were presented to the Commission for discussion on January 7, 2011. The following MDE staff members attended the meeting:

Dr. Lynn House, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations; Cindy Coon, Director, Educator Licensure; Trecina Green, Director, Curriculum and Instruction; Amy Daniel, Licensure Analyst, Educator Licensure.

The MDE staff recommend only **three** of the seven suggested courses be required to obtain the pre-K-K endorsement. The rationale behind this being that the endorsement will add **only one** grade level (pre-K) to an educator's existing license. Most current supplemental endorsements enable an educator to teach **at least** six grade levels (e.g. - grades 7-12). MDE staff also noted that an educator who has an elementary license (116, 120, 152) is already considered highly qualified to teach pre-K. A specific "pre-K" endorsement is not required at this time, although it was discussed that this may be required in the future under the guidelines of a new statewide literacy initiative.

The three courses unanimously chosen by MDE staff to prepare the educator for teaching three – five year old children were: SPED for Early Childhood Development; Early Language in Literacy; and Early Childhood Methods.

Additionally, MDE is asking the Commission to consider approving the option of adding PreK-K with a passing test score. Guidelines currently requires the Praxis II test 0021 for Early Childhood Education, along with Praxis I for a 5-year license in Child Development PreK-K. Many supplemental endorsements are added to a standard license by a passing test score. The Commission will consider approving a PreK add-on with the Praxis.

Dr. Ann Blackwell at USM asks the Commission to reconsider MDE's 9-hour proposal and increase it to 12 hours. See her letter in the backup material.

## **Recommendation for Course Requirements for a Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Endorsement Program**

In the July 9, 2010 meeting, the licensure guideline for PreK-K programs was amended to provide for those who already hold an elementary education/early childhood degree to gain an endorsement in child development to be qualified to teach at the prekindergarten/kindergarten level. Also, it would provide for those seeking to act as a Pre-School Coordinator.

MDE formed a PreK-K Committee composed of early childhood educators to select appropriate teacher education coursework for such an endorsement program. On October 6, 2010 the committee determined and recommended to MDE the following core standards and undergraduate courses (3 credit hours each) for those seeking an endorsement in child development to teach at the pre-kindergarten/kindergarten level:

- *SPED for Early Childhood Development*
- *Early Language in Literacy*
- *Child Development I (Infant)*
- *Child Development II*
- *Art of Parenting and Family*
- *Early Childhood Methods*

The committee recommends the following graduate course for the coordinator to receive a required 21 credit-hour endorsement:

- *Curriculum and Program Development in Early Childhood Education (3 credit hrs)*

### *External Committee Members:*

Dr. Ouida Pittman – Department of Human Sciences, Alcorn State University  
Dr. Wanda Newell – Chair, Department of Human Sciences, Alcorn State University  
Dr. Louise Davis – Child and Family Development Specialist, Mississippi State University Extension Services  
Dr. Jan Cooper Taylor – Human Development and Family Studies, Mississippi State University  
Dr. Johnetta Morrison – Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, Mississippi State University  
Dr. Cathy Grace – Director, MSU Early Childhood Institute, Mississippi State University  
Dr. Julie Parker – Department of Child and Family Studies, University of Southern Mississippi  
Dr. Melissa Clark – Early Elementary Education, William Carey University

### *MDE Representatives:*

Cindy Coon – Bureau Director, Educator Licensure  
Gail Gettis – Division Director, Teacher and Administrator Preparation  
Kelli Grant – Education Specialist Sr., Teacher and Administrator Preparation



# THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

*College of Education and Psychology  
Office of the Dean*

*118 College Drive #5023  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001  
Tel: 601.266.4568  
Fax: 601.266.4175*

June 24, 2011

Dear Members of the Commission:

This letter is in response to discussions and recommendations regarding an endorsement for early childhood education in Mississippi. A group of Mississippi professional educators in the field of early childhood education, charged with designing appropriate requirements for a Pre-K-K endorsement, recommended an 18-hour requirement to adequately prepare individuals to work effectively with young children in Pre-K classrooms. Representatives from MDE later held an internal meeting and recommended that the 18-hour requirement be reduced to a 9-hour requirement.

As an advocate for high quality early care and education for all children in Mississippi and as a representative for faculty colleagues at The University of Southern Mississippi, I urge members of the Commission to carefully consider the requirements for a Pre-K-K endorsement and the impact this decision will have on the future of our state. By ensuring that all individuals responsible for teaching children in the critical early years are properly prepared, our state takes a significant and important step toward improving educational outcomes at all levels. Available research is compelling with regard to the impact of early childhood experiences on future academic success. Identifying appropriate requirements for a Pre-K-K endorsement is an important discussion and represents a valuable opportunity to better prepare children in Mississippi for success.

The National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) recently developed a position statement that addresses the importance of early childhood teacher endorsements for states. The current NAECTE position statement is endorsed by seven additional early childhood professional associations. From our perspective, it seems prudent to consider the research and data reflected in these positions and approve an early childhood endorsement for Mississippi that aligns with the following:

- Early social and emotional development is essential for young children's success and an important component for children who are successful in graduating from high school; to promote maximum potential in young children, early childhood educators must be knowledgeable regarding child development and skilled in nurturing and promoting all aspects of development.

- A depth of knowledge in conceptual development promotes an understanding of young children's capacity to think and later understand abstract concepts; this depth of knowledge is important preparation for Pre-K teachers and ensures appropriate environments and curriculum to best meet the needs of all young learners in Pre-K classrooms.

I respectfully suggest that it is in the best interests of children and our state to retain at least one course in child development as a requirement for a Pre-K-K endorsement. Without this crucial foundational knowledge, teachers will be forced to plan and deliver instruction for young children absent the context of early childhood development. I urge members of the Commission to add this course to the current recommendations and establish a stronger preparation for Mississippi educators seeking an endorsement to work with young children. It is a compromise that can be viewed as a commitment to the children of Mississippi and an investment in children that will lead to improved academic outcomes at all levels.

Proposed Requirements for Pre-K-K Endorsement (12 semester hours):

Child Development I or Child Development II (both included in original recommendation)  
Early Language in Literacy  
Early Childhood Methods  
SPED for Early Childhood Development

Sincerely,



Ann P. Blackwell, PhD, CFCGS, CFLE  
Dean and Professor